Procedures For County-Aid Right of Way Acquisitions

Note: This document is a section of the County Transportation Manual, and is provided on this webpage as a reference document for informational purposes only. Any revisions herewith were reviewed and approved by ALDOT's County Transportation Engineer on December 12, 2002. Policies contained within this document are effective as of 12/12/02. Any questions related to the information contained within this document should be directed to ALDOT's County Transportation Engineer.

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION ON FEDERAL AID CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following procedures <u>MUST</u> be followed in acquiring right-of-way (ROW) on all Federal Aid Projects. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES IN ACQUIRING RIGHT-OF-WAY ON MAJOR COLLECTOR PROJECTS AFTER DECEMBER 1969, AND ON MINOR COLLECTOR AND LOCAL ROAD AND STREET PROJECTS AFTER JANUARY 4, 1975, <u>WILL MAKE THE PROJECT INELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL AID FUNDING</u>. The minimum right-of-way required when new or additional right-of-way is obtained is 24 meters unless there is adequate justification and approval by the Bureau of County Transportation for less. No Federal or State aid will be provided for right-of-way acquisition.

If right-of-way is to be acquired on a Federal Aid project, a cultural resource assessment must be submitted to the Bureau of County Transportation. State funded projects **do not** require this assessment.

- 1. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD RIGHT-OF-WAY BE ACQUIRED
 BEFORE THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION IS APPROVED AND YOU ARE ADVISED
 TO PROCEED WITH RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION BY THE BUREAU OF COUNTY
 TRANSPORTATION. Once the categorical exclusion is approved, the County Engineer will be notified by the Bureau of County Transportation to proceed with right-of-way acquisition.
- 2. It must be documented in the county's files that each affected property owner was fully informed of his/her right to receive just compensation for the acquisition of his/her property. If, after being so advised, the property owner is willing to donate, he/she should be asked to sign a form similar to the example on page 6.3. If the owner does not want to sign the form, it should be noted, and the County Engineer or negotiator should state on the form that the owner understood all of his/her legal options in the acquisition of his/her property.
- **3.** If the owner donates the property, the county accepts his/her donation and processes the title to the property in the usual manner.
- 4. If the owner indicates he/she wants compensation and the property value is greater than \$5,000.00, then an appraisal <u>MUST</u> be made by a qualified appraiser and reviewed by a qualified review appraiser (for right of way acquisition of property values of \$5,000.00 or less, see Section 6 below). At this point, the Division office <u>MUST</u> be contacted for assistance before any further discussion with the property owner concerning compensation is conducted. This appraisal and appraisal review could at times indicate a zero offer. <u>IMPORTANT</u> The property owner much be given an opportunity to accompany the appraiser during the examination of his/her property.
- 5. After this appraisal and review determines an amount to be offered, the County Engineer or his designee can negotiate for the property. This person must be someone other than the appraiser or review appraiser, except when the value of the acquisition is \$2,500.00 or less. This initial offer must conform to the amount contained in the review appraiser's determination of value. This offer must be furnished to the property owner in writing (see example on pages 6.4 and 6.5 written offer to property owner). The breakdown of the offer at the end of this letter MUST be completed. This negotiation should be made promptly after the offer is determined. Any counteroffer considered reasonable by the County Engineer is to be recommended to the Division Right of Way Engineer for approval in accordance with ALDOT policy. If an agreement cannot be reached, then acquisition by condemnation should be proceeded in the usual manner. A record of the negotiations should be kept, which would include the date owners are contacted, amount of offer, etc. A copy should be furnished to the property owner and one copy should be retained in the county's file.

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION ON FEDERAL AID CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (continued)

6. When the property to be acquired has a value of \$5,000.00 or less and an official appraisal is not made, the forms shown on pages 6.6 and 6.7 should be used. The property owner must sign this form.

After the "Property Evaluation Report" form (example on page 6.8) has been completed, it should be submitted to the Division Right of Way Engineer for review and approval. After approval, the form will be returned to the county, and negotiations for the property can proceed.

- 7. As soon as the right-of-way has been acquired and recorded, a right-of-way recording Data letter giving property owners, date of acquisition, method acquired (donation, purchase, and/or condemnation), and deed book and page where recorded shall be submitted to the Bureau of County Transportation, through the appropriate Division. See example on page 6.12.
- **8**. A right-of-way certification <u>MUST</u> be submitted to the Bureau of County Transportation, through the Division, at this time. If the right-of-way was purchased or condemned, provide in this letter a total cost. For newly acquired right-of-way where Federal guidelines were followed use example on page 6.16.

For projects where right-of-way was acquired prior to December 1969 (major collectors) or January 4, 1975 (minor collectors and local roads and streets), use the example on page 6.14. Submit one (1) originally signed copy to the Bureau of County Transportation, through the Division.

If ROW was acquired after December 1969 (major collectors) and January 4, 1975 (minor collectors and local roads and streets) and the ROW was acquired for a previously constructed Federal Aid project, submit a ROW certification similar to the one on page 6.15.

9. All ROW work involving displacement and relation of occupants will be performed by the appropriate Division personnel.

EXAMPLE LETTER TO PROPERTY OWNERS

	COUNTY
CO	DUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
	, ALABAMA
Property Owner's Name & Addre	SS
	_
	_
	_
Dear Sir:	
Dear Sir.	
	RE: Project No.
	Tract No.
	County
Coun	ty is in the process of acquiring Rights-of-Way for the purpose of
constructing the above referenced	project.
	this project will necessitate the acquisition of approximately
	ar property, which is identified as Tract No on our
	recognizes the value of your property, and it is generally known that
	brings a higher price and is in greater demand than similarly situated
property on an unimproved route,	all other factors being equal.
TC	
•	he above and desire to donate the property for the Right-of-Way on this
property, please acknowledge san	ne by signing the lower portion of this letter in the space provided.
	Variation la
	Yours truly,
	County Engineer
	County Engineer County
	County
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:	
	advised of my right to receive just compensation based on an appraisal
	n in agreement with the contents of the above letter.
made of my property and made and	in in agreement with the contents of the deove fetter.
	Property Owner
	1 ,
	Date

EXAMPLE OF WRITTEN OFFER TO PROPERTY OWNERS WHEN APPRAISAL IS MADE

	COUNTY	
	COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT	
	, ALABAMA	
Property Owner's Name & Add	ress	
Troperty Owner s Name & Add	1035	
Dear Sir:		
Dear Sir.		
	RE: Project No	
	Tract No.	
		CITY C 4
purpose of constructing the above	County is in the process of acquiring Righ	ts-of-Way for the
purpose of constructing the above	ve referenced projects.	
The proposed construction of	of this project will necessitate the purchase of app	proximately
	is identified as Tract No on our Right-o	•
	a qualified independent or staff real estate apprais	
to make a careful study of all le	gally compensable elements of value which contr	ibute to the present
worth of your property. He was	s also instructed to carefully consider the effect of	f the project on the value
of your remaining lands and imp	provements, if any. A breakdown of the offer due	e you is given below.
Should this offer not be seen	ontable, and no reasonable compromise can be rea	ashad it will be
	eptable, and no reasonable compromise can be rearty by exercising the right of Eminent Domain as	
	of condemnation is filed in the Probate County of	
	nty. The Probate Court appoints a three-member	
	ity. These commission members view the propert	
= = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =	eir estimate of value. Should you or the County b	
price set by the commission, eith	her party may request a trial in the Circuit Court.	This action must be
taken promptly as the Courts sp	ecify a time limit for taking such appeals. The va	aluation set by the Circuit
Court is binding on both parties	unless it can be established that some part of the	court proceedings was
irregular, in which case an appe	al by either your or the County may result in a sec	cond trial.
The mean delice in Abie 1	attanta anno la constant d'handa	C
	etter to you is employed by the ne can explain to you the elements of value which	County
	acquisition on your remaining property, if any. The	
	ns relative to the procedure outlined above.	ms person is also in a
position to answer your question	15 relative to the procedure outilited above.	
	Yours truly.	

6.4

County Engineer

EXAMPLE OF WRITTEN OFFER TO PROPERTY OWNERS (Continued)

Delivered By:	Negotiator
Date Delivered:	
Received By:	- Owner
Date Received by Owner:	
BREAKDOWN OF OFFER	<u>R</u>
Land	· \$
Improvements	\$
Damages to Remaining Land and/or Improvements	\$
Cost of Relocating Improvements	\$
County's Contractor to Relocate	
Sub	Total \$
Less Enhancement to Remaining Land	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT OF OFFER DUE	\$

EXAMPLE OF WRITTEN OFFER TO PROPERTY OWNERS WHEN NO APPRAISAL IS MADE

		_COUNTY
C	OUNTY ENGINEERING DEP	
		ALABAMA
Property Owner's Name & Addr	ess	
Dear Sir:		
Dour Sir.		
	RE: Project No.	
	Tract No	
		D. 14 CW C 4
of constructing the above referen		acquiring Rights-of-Way for the purpose
or constructing the above referen	leed projects.	
acre(s) of your property, which is estimated the value of your property breakdown of the offer due you in Should this offer not be accept	s identified as Tract Noerty that is needed for construction given below. ptable, and no reasonable complete.	purchase of approximately on our Right-of-Way map. We have on of the above referenced project. A comise can be reached, it will be
In such proceedings, a petition of The Probate Court appoints a thr These commission members view estimate of value. Should you or party may request a trial in the C time limit for taking such appeals	f condemnation is filed in the Pree-member commission to indicate the property, hear testimony for the County be dissatisfied with fircuit Court. This action must be so the valuation set by the Circuit of the court proceedings was	inent Domain as set out by Alabama Law robate Court of County. Cate the price to be paid by the County. The price set by the commission, either the price set by the commission, either to taken promptly as the Courts specify a uit Court is binding on both parties unless irregular, in which case an appeal by
The person delivering this letter Engineering Department. He/sho the effect of the Right-of-Way ac position to answer your question	e can explain to you the element equisition on your remaining pro	es of value which constitute our offer and operty, if any. This person is also in a
	Yours truly,	
	County Engineer	

EXAMPLE OF WRITTEN OFFER TO PROPERTY OWNERS (Continued)

Delivered By:	Negotiato
Date Delivered:	
Received By:	- Owner
Date Received by Owner:	
Page Two	
BREAKDOWN OF OFFER	
Land	\$
Improvements	\$
Damages to Remaining Land and/or Improvements	\$
Cost of Relocating Improvements	\$
County's Contractor to Relocate	
Sub Total	\$
Less Enhancement to Remaining Land	- \$
TOTAL AMOUNT OF OFFER DUE	- \$

PROPERTY EVALUATION REPORT

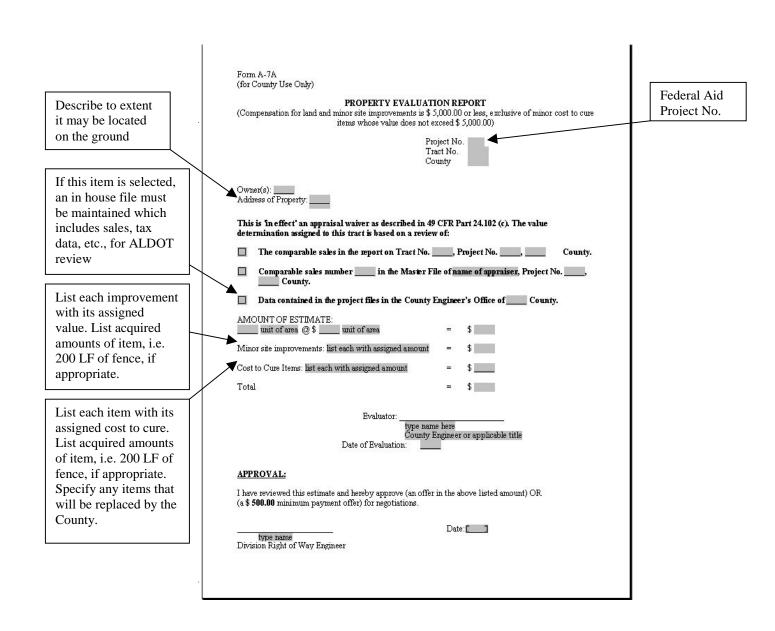
(Compensation for land and minor site improvements is \$5,000.00 or less, exclusive of minor cost to cure items whose value does not exceed \$5,000.00)

Project No. Tract No. County

Owner(s):Address of Property:				
This is 'in effect' an appraisal waiver as described in 4 determination assigned to this tract is based on a review		Part 24.102	(c). The value	
☐ The comparable sales in the report on Tract No.	·,	Project No.	, County.	
Comparable sales number in the Master File of name of appraiser, Project No County.				
☐ Data contained in the project files in the County	Engine	er's Office (of County.	
AMOUNT OF ESTIMATE: unit of area @ \$ unit of area	=	\$		
Minor site improvements: list each with assigned amount	=	\$		
Cost to Cure Items: list each with assigned amount	=	\$		
Total	=	\$		
Evaluator:			_	
▼	me here	er or applical	ble title	
Date of Evaluation:		or upplication	sie title	
APPROVAL:				
I have reviewed this estimate and hereby approve (an offer (a \$ 500.00 minimum payment offer) for negotiations.	er in the	above listed	amount) OR	
	Dat	te:		
type name Division Right of Way Engineer				

The following is the minimum requirements for proper completion of the County Property Evaluation Form. The form may be expanded to legal size or a second page to allow room for inclusion of all needed information.

A property plat is not required with the submission of each separate tract form when a right of way map is submitted. It is suggested this map conform to the ALDOT mapping standards published in the Engineering Section on the Right of Way Bureau website. However, at a minimum, the map should identify the project location, specific tract numbers, the owner's name, the total "before", "after", and "acquired" areas of the affected tract, clearly labeled existing and acquired right of way, and labeled topography of any buildings or minor site improvements within or near the area of acquisition. A separate plat attached to each report will be required containing the above stated information if no map is submitted for the ALDOT review.



Revised 3/01

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **PRELIMINARY PROJECT RELOCATION ANALYSIS**

(To be prepared prior to Corridor Public Hearing)

Project No. Description										
DISPLACEMENT A	ND REPLA	CEMENT	HOUSIN	NG INVE	NTOR	Y ESTI	MAT	E		
ESTIMAT	ED NUMBI	ER DISPLA	ACEES			IN	COM	E LEVE	<u>EL</u>	
				Minorit	t <u>y</u>					Over
Type of Displacees	Owners	Tenants	Total	Own.	Ten	. *	0-15	15-30	30-50	50
Individuals and										
Families										
Businesses										
Farms										
Non-Profit										
Organizations										
Signs										
OWNERS		VALUE	OF DWI	ELLING						
DISPLACED	*0-40		0-60	60-80		80-10)0	Ove	r 100	
DWELLINGS	0.10	•	0 00	00 00		00 10	,0	0,61	100	
1 - 3 BEDROOMS										
4 - OVER BEDROOM	S									
AVAILABLE										
DWELLINGS										
1 -3 BEDROOMS										
4 - OVER BEDROOM	S									
THEN A NUTCO		MONTH	II W DEN	TAL DA	TE.					
TENANTS DISPLACED UNITS	¢0	150	<u>il y ken</u> \$151-:	TAL RA	1E \$301	400	Φ	401-500	•	501 +
1 - 3 BEDROOMS	\$0-	150	ф151	500	\$301	-400	D	401-500	Ф:	501 +
4 - OVER BEDROOMS	C									
AVAILABLE UNITS										
1 -3 BEDROOMS	,									
	C									
4 - OVER BEDROOM	3									
Items numbered 1 through responses and attach additional action and attach additional actions in the characteristic and attach additional actions are actions as a second attachment and action and action actions are actions as a second action and action actions are actions as a second action action.	tional pages	as needed.	orm <u>must</u>	be answer	red and	explain	ied. N	umber th	ie corresp	onding
I certify that the above is	s a realistic é	esumate.								
Date: Signe	ed:			Т	itle: <u>I</u>	<u>Division</u>	Reloc	cation Of	fficer	
(Submit in duplicate to B Attached: <u>Narrative Expl</u> *Denotes Thousands		ght of Way)								

6.10

**DSS dwellings currently available.

FORM ROW-RA-1 (continued on back)

The information listed below <u>must</u> be furnished as a narrative analysis to the extent appropriate for the project and in accordance with 49 CFR 24.205 and Paragraph G, Section I, of the State's Relocation Assistance Manual.

- 1. As estimate of the number of households to be displaced, including the family characteristics (e.g. Minority, ethnic, handicapped, elderly, large family, income level and owner/tenant status). However, where there are very few displacees, information on race, ethnicity and income levels should not be included in the EIS to protect the privacy of those affected.
- 2. A discussion comparing available (decent, safe and sanitary) housing in the area with the housing needs of the displacees. The comparison should include: (1) price ranges, (2) sizes (number of bedrooms), and (3) occupancy status (owner/tenant).
- 3. A discussion of any affected neighborhoods, public facilities, non-profit organizations and families having special composition (e.g. ethnic, minority, elderly, handicapped or other factors) which may require special relocation considerations and the measures proposed to resolve these relocation concerns.
- 4. A discussion of the measures to be taken where the existing housing inventory is insufficient, does not meet relocation standards or is not within the financial capability of the displacees. A commitment to the last resort housing should be included when sufficient comparable replacement housing may not be available.
- 5. As estimate of the numbers, descriptions, types of occupancy (owner/tenant) and sizes (number of employees) of businesses and farms to be displaced. Additionally, the discussion should identify: (1) sites available in the area to which the affected businesses may relocate. (2) Likelihood of such relocation, and (3) potential impacts on individual businesses and farms caused by displacement or proximity of the proposed highway if not displaced.
- 6. A discussion of the results of contacts, if any, with local governments, organizations, groups and individuals regarding residential and business relocation impacts, including any measures or coordination needed to reduce general and/or specific impacts. These contacts are encouraged for projects with large numbers of relocatees or complex relocation requirements. Specific financial and incentive programs or opportunities (beyond those provided by the Uniforms Relocation Act) to residential and business relocatees to minimize impacts may be identified, if available through other agencies or organizations.
- 7. A statement that: (1) the acquisition and relocation program will be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970, as amended by the Surface Transportation & Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, and (2) relocation resources are available to all residential and business relocatees without discrimination.

RIGHT-OF-WAY RECORDING DATA LETTER (ACQUIRED) - EXAMPLE

P. O. Box 159

OFFICE OF DALE COUNTY ENGINEER OZARK, ALABAMA 36361

TELEPHONE 774-5875

October 28, 1994

Mr. John F. Courson County Transportation Engineer Alabama Department of Transportation Montgomery, AL 36130

RE: DCP-23-10-94 BRZ-2300 () Dale County

Dear Mr. Courson:

Listed below are the property owners from which right-of-way was acquired for the above referenced project. Listed opposite of the property owners are the dates of acquisition, methods of acquisition, deed books and page numbers of recording.

PROPERTY OWNER	ACQUISITION	METHOD ACQUIRED	DEED BOOK <u>& PAGE NUMBER</u>
George Newman	7/19/94	Donated	Book 183 Page 705
Sarah Nell Richter	7/8/94	Donated	Book 183 Page 707
Curtis N. Perters, Jr.	7/19/94	Donated	Book 183 Page 703

If further information is needed, please advise.

Very truly yours,

Guy E. Payne County Engineer

RIGHT -OF-WAY RECORDING LETTER (EXISTING) - EXAMPLE

(DATE)

Mr. John F. Courson
County Transportation Engineer
Alabama Department of Transportation
1409 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36130-3050

_	α .	
Dear	Sir:	
	1)	

RE: Project No
Count
The basic R.O.W. width of the above subject proposed project is 85.344 meters, 42.672 methods of the centerline. The R.O.W. was acquired in 1963 by Henry County as Project No. SA

The basic R.O.W. width of the above subject proposed project is 85.344 meters, 42.672 meters each side of the centerline. The R.O.W. was acquired in 1963 by Henry County as Project No. SACP-7609-A and recorded in Deed Book No. 65, Pages 31 and 32 in the Henry County Courthouse. No additional R.O.W. is needed.

County Engineer

RIGHT-OF-WAY CERTIFICATION- EXAMPLE (date)

Mr. John F. Courson County Transportation Engineer Alabama Department of Transportation 1409 Coliseum Boulevard Montgomery, AL 36130-3050	
Dear Mr. Courson:	
	RE: Project No
	County
	County, Alabama, acquired this or to the effective date of provisions of the relocation ned in Volume 7 of the Federal Aid Highway program d.
Signe	ed
Title	(County Engineer, Chairman – County Commission, or Judge of Probate)

RIGHT-OF-WAY CERTIFICATION - EXAMPLE

BIBB COUNTY ENGINEER 11 CHURCH STREET CENTREVILLE, ALABAMA 35042

April 28, 1994

Mr. John F. Courson County Transportation Engineer Alabama Department of Transportation 1409 Coliseum Boulevard Montgomery, AL 36130

RE: Project STPNU-0420()
BCP 04-47-93
County Road #1
Bibb County
Right-of-Way Certification

Dear Mr. Courson:

I hereby certify that Bibb County has complied with the applicable provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Regulations for Federally Assisted Programs for the above referenced project, as contained in 49 CFR, Part 24 (Code of Federal Regulations).

Bibb County acquired 80' of right-of-way, for this road, in 1970, as part of Project F.A.S. S-0408(101).

Your approval of this certification is hereby requested, in order that we may proceed with advertisements for bids for physical construction of this project.

Very truly yours,

Harvey A. Flamholtz, P.E. Bibb County Engineer

RIGHT-OF-WAY CERTIFICATION- EXAMPLE

(Date)

Mr. John F. Courson
County Transportation Engineer
Alabama Department of Transportation
1409 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36130-3050

Dear Mr. Courson:	
RE:	Project No
	County
I hereby certify thatapplicable provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistant for Federally Assisted Programs for the above references of Federal Regulations).	nce and Real Property Acquisition Regulations
There was/were	property owner(s).
() Donated () Purchased (Total Price \$	ested in order that we may proceed with
Title	County Engineer, hairman – County Commission, Or Judge of Probate)